

RECOGNIZING PASTOR SAMONIA
WHISONANT OF MOUNTAIN BE
REMOVED OUTREACH CENTER

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Pastor Samonia Whisonant for achieving the rank of Apostle-Elect. Pastor Whisonant's remarkable work has had an incredible impact on our Harrisburg community via her efforts with the Mountain Be Removed Outreach Center.

Pastor Whisonant is the co-founder and leader of Harrisburg's (formerly Washington, D.C. Mountain Be Removed Outreach Center, founded in October 1998. The Center aims to be the largest distribution center of food, clothing, and household supplies in Harrisburg. Although Pastor Whisonant was not raised in the church, she was well known for her wisdom and sage advice—the same character traits that she embodies as she now leads God's people through her work.

Pastor Whisonant has taught and preached God's Word for over 27 years. She's committed to equipping and training developing prophets and leaders. Her foundation in ministry was birthed through Prison Outreach, serving 15 years by empowering and instructing inmates throughout Maryland. Through her selfless work in Maryland's Montgomery, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel Counties, she spread the word of God while also teaching inmates valuable life skills to aid in their integration back into society.

Pastor Whisonant has walked in the Office of the Prophet for ten years; her tagline: "Your Prophet Through the Process." She's been called to help the Body of Christ reach their divine destiny safely and without missing the necessary details that form and develop them into becoming mature Apostolic and Prophetic people.

In addition to her work with the Center, she is an entrepreneur, author, speaker, mentor and certified aromatherapist. Pastor Whisonant is the wife of Pastor Carlton Whisonant (co-founder M.B.R.O.C.), and the mother to two beautiful children, Davon Brooks and Elder-Elect Chante Whisonant (vice president, M.B.R.O.C.). Her favorite scripture is John 10:10, "I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

I am humbled and privileged to honor Pastor Whisonant as she is recognized as Apostle-Elect. She sets the standard for all to follow. The work of organizations like Mountain Be Removed Outreach Center is significant, and strengthens our communities and those around us. I commend Pastor Samonia Whisonant for her tireless, selfless, and faithful efforts, and wish her continued Godspeed on her journey.

HONORING ELIZABETH KATHYRN
STEPHENSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elizabeth Kathryn

Stephenson. Elizabeth is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 74G, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Elizabeth has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Elizabeth has been involved with scouting, she has not only earned 37 merit badges, but also the respect of her family, peers, and community. Elizabeth has also contributed to her community through her Eagle Scout project. Elizabeth cleaned the Nodaway County Community Building, she also primed and painted newly installed walls, sound boards, ceilings, doors and trim in all rooms at the facility.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elizabeth Kathryn Stephenson for her accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
KENYON K. BELL

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor a superb leader, General Kenyon Bell. During my short time as a Member of Congress, I have received a warm welcome from many people, but none warmer than from the great men and women of Sheppard Air Force Base. This summer, General Bell will relinquish command of the 82nd Training Wing and Installation Command of Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. While we are sad to see him go, we are excited for his future.

General Bell was given a great opportunity to lead in challenging times and did so with the highest degree of professionalism, dignity, and skill. As the COVID-19 pandemic shut down much of our normal day-to-day lives across the nation, General Bell found himself in command of a mission that could not stop, or even slow down, without disastrous and long-term consequences for military readiness. With more than 5,000 students living in close quarters on the base, he acted decisively to implement policies and guidelines to ensure the safe continuation of both the technical and flying training missions at Sheppard. As a result, operational units around the world continued receiving the trained, mission-ready Airmen required to maintain global combat capability.

While we faced civil unrest as a country over the last year, General Bell led by example and worked to build bridges of understanding and unity that transcend politics and will ultimately strengthen the United States military. His ability to speak boldly, frankly, and calmly on the highly charged subject of race is an example we all must follow. He also had a willingness and ability to listen respectfully and honestly to differing perspectives. While I faced the steep learning curve involved with being a Member of Congress, General Bell ensured that I stayed up to date with the situation on the ground at Sheppard,

truly working as a partner. I could not have asked for a better partner to work with as I began my tenure as a Congressman.

General Bell's list of successes is longer than many I have seen from a General Officer. While navigating a variety of unique challenges throughout his tenure, he found a way to accomplish countless traditional command matters. The successful completion of the Sheppard Main Gate renovation project, in all its complexity, marks the realization of more than a decade of effort. More importantly, it represents markedly improved security and force protection for the missions and people of Sheppard Air Force Base. I was honored to be there with General Bell in person for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony in April.

Finally, a sure testament to the quality of General Bell's leadership is the fact that through all the challenges of 2020 and 2021, the 82nd Training Wing was rated as Highly Effective by the Air Education and Training Command Inspector General following the 2021 Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my congratulations to General Bell on completing his command tour at Sheppard Air Force Base. I thank the General for his exceptional leadership and service. I congratulate his wife, Lori, and his kids Amira, Kenyon, and Roman. I look forward to seeing General Bell continue to excel in his career, and I look forward to our future years of friendship. We are a better and stronger nation for his service.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN PAUL
JACOBS

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the remarkable life story of an American hero, Captain Paul Jacobs who passed away this past December. Captain Paul Jacobs served six combat tours in Vietnam, though it was his last tour that forever enshrined him as leading one of the U.S. Navy's greatest humanitarian efforts.

As U.S. Forces were withdrawing from South Vietnam in late April 1975, Captain Jacobs was then commanding the destroyer escort USS *Kirk* off the coast of Vietnam. To escape being captured by Communist North Vietnamese forces, South Vietnam helicopters loaded with refugees swarmed out toward the U.S. fleet. After hearing rumors that any South Vietnamese pilot captured by the North Vietnamese would be tortured, mutilated, and imprisoned, while their families would be made outcasts or worse, they fled desperately trying to escape that fate.

Upon realizing this, Captain Jacobs offered his ship as a safe haven for the South Vietnamese refugees. Helicopters began arriving and all hands aboard the *Kirk*—including Captain Jacobs—pushed unloaded helicopters over the side to make room for incoming ones. In all, 12 helicopters, packed with refugees, had landed on one of the Navy's smallest warships. Captain Jacobs then transformed the *Kirk* into a humanitarian aid station, providing food, comfort, medical care, relief from a blazing sun and hope to the men, women and children they'd rescued. It is no exaggeration to